

Sensory Program

Goals:

Provide opportunities for hearing screening training for school health professionals in order to increase the number of children who receive hearing screenings.
Identify children with hearing impairments and refer them to intervention services in the community.

Program Components:

The Sensory Program trains trainers to train hearing and vision screeners. The hearing and vision screeners screen Arizona's school children so that they may identify all of Arizona's children with a new hearing or vision loss.

The Sensory Program purchases audiometers to loan to trained hearing screeners. Trained hearing screeners can check out audiometers, tympanometers, or otoacoustic emission devices in Phoenix, Flagstaff, and Tucson.

The Sensory Program Staff collect annual school hearing reports to identify the number of Arizona school children screened and the number of children newly identified with a hearing loss.

Funding

The Sensory Program utilized the Maternal Child Health Title V funding.

Target Audience:

The Sensory Program targets school health professionals for hearing screening training to ensure that all Arizona school children are screened for hearing loss.

Why is this Program Needed?

Hearing loss can have devastating effects on academic, social and communication development in children.

The Sensory Program provides for a standardized hearing screening to ensure that all Arizona children receive quality screening to ensure that no child is missed.

What has the Program Achieved?

Hearing screening equipment is now available at three different locations in the state. Equipment is loaned out free of charge to trained screeners. In addition to providing audiometers and tympanometers, we now have an otoacoustic emission device available to loan.

544,966 children had a hearing screening in over 2,500 schools in the 2005/2006 school year. 1,985 children were identified as having a hearing loss.

There are 99 hearing screening trainers and 2,430 hearing screeners throughout Arizona.

Approximately 85% of all kindergarten, preschools, private, public, charter, and accommodation schools in Arizona conducted a hearing screening in the 2005/2006 school year.

For Additional Information Contact:

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Leadership for a Healthy Arizona

